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STAAS & HALSEY LLP			DESIR, PIERRE LOUIS	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/643,953	NISHINO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PIERRE-LOUIS DESIR	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,9,10,17,20,22-25 and 27-35 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10,17,19,20,22-25 and 27-35 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/20/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 05/20/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 7, of the Remarks, Applicants argue that Nishimoto does not disclose that the movement capabilities of the pointer are set based on the contents displayed on the LCD screen. In fact, continue applicants, Nishimoto provides for only one operational mode for the pointer.

As described in the previous office action, Nishimoto discloses a pointing device and mobile telephone in which an optical sensor for reading an optical image of a finger that is kept in contact is installed below an LCD for displaying information. Nishimoto also discloses that the finger is shifted while it is in contact with the sensor window so as to set the pointer to a desired menu among menus displayed on the LCD. An optical image of the finger, detected by the image sensor, is transmitted to the CPU through an image sensor interface so that, for example, the shifting direction and the shift distance of finger 30 are found. Based upon the shifting direction and the shift distance of the finger thus found, the CPU shifts the pointer

displayed on the LCD through the LCD interface. A proper input key is pressed with the pointer indicating the necessary information to select the corresponding information. Thus, the information is displayed on the LCD. According to the menu displayed on the LCD, when the device is operated, the operational mode of the pointing device is changing relative to the finding of the shifting direction (i.e., determination of the direction in which the operational object (cursor or pointer) can be moved) and the shift distance of the finger (direction of which the pointing device can be operated) (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53).

As can be seen from above, Nishimoto discloses that a direction in which the pointing device is to be moved is determined based on the contents display on the menu.

Nishimoto was not cited for the different operational changing mode of the pointing device. For this limitation, Hotta was disclosed.

Also, it appears that applicants argue against the references individually. Applicants are respectfully reminded that one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

On page 7 of the remarks, Applicants argue that Hotta does not disclose limiting the movement of the cursor based on the contents being displayed on a display screen but instead requires the user to decide when to limit the movement of the cursor by pressing an additional switch provided on the mouse.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. In Hotta, the movement of the cursor is limited to either horizontal or vertical direction and since the cursor cannot be moved in both directions (due to

the activation of said switch), the movement of the cursor is limited to less than 360-degree direction. As such, the combination of Nishimoto with Hotta reads on the claims as written.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Newly added claim 35 describes “a control unit configured to switch an operation mode of the pointing device between a mode in which the operational object has 360-degree movement on the display screen and a mode in which the operational object is limited to less than 360-degree movement on the display screen...” This disclosure represents new matter. Throughout the specification, operational mode is described as horizontal, vertical directions, and four other directions, and the pointing device switches between those directions.

With the newly added claims, it appears that directional movement that the pointing device is to be switched to are 360-degree direction and less than 360-degree direction. As such, this disclosure represents new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 17, 19-20, 22-23, 25, 29, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto, Pub. No. US 20020155857, in view of Hotta et al. (Patent abstract Of Japan Publication Number: 05181603) (cited by Applicants).

Regarding claim 1, Nishimoto discloses a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece of information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14), comprising: a control unit for changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time the pointing device is operated, wherein the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode, and defines the direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction which the pointing device can be operated (i.e., the finger is shifted while it is in contact with the sensor window so as to set the pointer to a desired menu among menus displayed on the LCD. An optical image of the finger, detected by the image sensor, is transmitted to the CPU through an image sensor interface so that, for example, the shifting

direction and the shift distance of finger 30 are found. Based upon the shifting direction and the shift distance of the finger thus found, the CPU shifts the pointer displayed on the LCD through the LCD interface. A proper input key is pressed with the pointer indicating the necessary information to select the corresponding information. Thus, the information is displayed on the LCD. According to the menu displayed on the LCD, when the device is operated, the operational mode of the pointing device is changing relative to the finding of the shifting direction (i.e., determination of the direction in which the operational object (cursor or pointer) can be moved) and the shift distance of the finger (direction of which the pointing device can be operated) (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53).

Although Nishimoto discloses a device as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a device wherein the control unit is used to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

However, Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse (see abstract). As can be seen, the cursor can is moved in the completely horizontal or vertical direction not both. Thus, the movement of the cursor is limited to less than the 360-degree direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure

the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display and to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claim 17, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone comprising a pointing device (see claim 1 rejection, and abstract).

Regarding claim 19, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone comprising a pointing device (see claim 1 rejection, and abstract).

Regarding claim 20, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (see claim 17 rejection) wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone (i.e., CPU) (see fig. 3).

Regarding claim 22, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (see claim 19 rejection) wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone (i.e., CPU) (see fig. 3).

Regarding claim 23, Nishimoto discloses a method for controlling a pointing device, that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14) comprising the controlling step of: changing an operational mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time the pointing device is operated, wherein the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode, and defines the direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction which the pointing device can be operated (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53, and refer to claim 1 reasoning).

Although Nishimoto discloses a method as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a method wherein the control unit limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

However, Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse (see abstract). As can be seen, the cursor can is moved in the completely horizontal or vertical direction not both. Thus, the movement of the cursor is limited to less than the 360-degree direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display and to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claim 25, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (i.e., mobile terminal) (see abstract) comprising a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14), a control unit for changing an operational mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time the pointing device is operated, wherein the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode, and defines the direction in which

the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction which the pointing device can be operated (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53, and refer to claim 1 reasoning).

Although Nishimoto discloses a device as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a device wherein the control unit limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

However, Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse (see abstract). As can be seen, the cursor can is moved in the completely horizontal or vertical direction not both. Thus, the movement of the cursor is limited to less than the 360-degree direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display and to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claim 29, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (see claim 25 rejection) wherein the control unit is constituted in a main control unit of the mobile telephone i.e., CPU) (see figs. 3, 6, 9, 10, 17).

Regarding claim 35, Nishimoto discloses a mobile communication apparatus (i.e., mobile phone) (see paragraph 2) comprising a pointing device configured to operate an operational

object on a display screen of the mobile communication apparatus (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece of information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14); and a control unit configured to switch the pointing device between an operation wherein the operation object has 360-degree movement on the display and less than 360-degree movement on the display screen according to an application that is running on the mobile communication apparatus at the time the pointing device is operated (i.e., the finger is shifted while it is in contact with the sensor window so as to set the pointer to a desired menu among menus displayed on the LCD. An optical image of the finger, detected by the image sensor, is transmitted to the CPU through an image sensor interface so that, for example, the shifting direction and the shift distance of finger 30 are found. Based upon the shifting direction and the shift distance of the finger thus found, the CPU shifts the pointer displayed on the LCD through the LCD interface. A proper input key is pressed with the pointer indicating the necessary information to select the corresponding information. Thus, the information is displayed on the LCD. According to the menu displayed on the LCD, when the device is operated, the operational mode of the pointing device is changing relative to the finding of the shifting direction (i.e., determination of the direction in which the operational object (cursor or pointer) can be moved) and the shift distance of the finger (direction of which the pointing device can be operated (i.e., 360-degree direction or less than 360-degree direction))) (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53).

Although Nishimoto discloses a device as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a device wherein the control unit is used to limit the movement of the operational object

on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

However, Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse (see abstract). As can be seen, the cursor can is moved in the completely horizontal or vertical direction not both. Thus, the movement of the cursor is limited to less than the 360-degree direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display and to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claims 33-34, Nishimoto discloses a device as described above (see claim 1 rejection).

Although Nishimoto discloses a pointing device as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a pointing device wherein when said display screen displays icons, the movement of the operational object is limited to only the direction in which the icons are arranged, nor doe it disclose a device wherein based on the contents displayed on said display screen, the movement of the operational object is limited to one or more of horizontal, vertical or diagonal directions on the display screen.

However, Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch

provided on a mouse (see abstract). As can be seen, the cursor can is moved in the completely horizontal or vertical direction not both. Thus, the movement of the cursor is limited to less than the 360-degree direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display (see Hotta's abstract) and to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

7. Claims 9, 10, 24, 27, 28, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto and Hotta, further in view of Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6765598 (previously disclosed).

Regarding claims 9 and 27, Nishimoto and Hotta disclose a pointing device as described above (see claims 1 and 25 rejection).

Although Nishimoto discloses a pointing device and a telephone as described, the combination does not specifically disclose a pointing device and a telephone wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device takes the maximum value.

However, Kim discloses a device (see abstract) wherein the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2) wherein the moving the movable pointer at a first speed when the variation in the Y coordinate values is greater than the variation in the X coordinate values (see col. 6, lines 5-8); and the moving the movable

pointer at a second speed when the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than the variation in the Y coordinate values, and wherein the second speed is faster than the first speed (see col. 6, lines 9-13. Also refer to col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 19).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the device as described by Kim with the characteristics of Nishimoto and Hotta's disclosure to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claims 10 and 28, Nishimoto and Hotta disclose a pointing device as described above (see claims 1 and 27 rejection).

Although Nishimoto discloses a pointing device and mobile telephone as described, the combination does not specifically disclose a pointing device and mobile telephone wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

However, Kim discloses a device (see abstract) wherein the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2) wherein the moving the movable pointer at a first speed when the variation in the Y coordinate values is greater than the variation in the X coordinate values (see col. 6, lines 5-8); and the moving the movable pointer at a second speed when the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than the variation in the Y coordinate values, and wherein the second speed is faster than the first speed (see col. 6, lines 9-13. Also refer to col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 19).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the device as described by Kim with the characteristics of

Nishimoto and Hotta's disclosure to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claim 24, Nishimoto and Hotta disclose a method as described above (see claim 23 rejection).

Although Nishimoto discloses a method as described above, the combination does not specifically disclose a method wherein the pointing device can be operated to move said operational object at any speed, and wherein said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a constant step value when said pointing device is operated in a predetermined operational mode.

However, Kim discloses a method for controlling a pointing device (see abstract) wherein the pointing device can be operated to move the operational object at any speed (i.e., the on-screen pointer speed controller controls the on-screen pointer to move between icons of different levels at a speed faster than an initially-set movement speed) (see col. 4, lines 49-51), and wherein said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated (i.e., the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted as a function of whether the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than or less than the variation in the Y coordinate values) (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the pointing device as described by Kim with the characteristics of Nishimoto and Hotta's disclosures to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claims 30-32, Nishimoto and Hotta disclose a mobile phone as described (see claims 1, 23, and 25 rejections).

Hotta discloses a device Hotta comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse. The shift extends of a mouse are inputted to a CPU from a horizontal component and a vertical component (see abstract). Thus, the CPU or control unit defines the direction in advance, in which the cursor can be operated. If a switch is pressed under such conditions, the CPU compares the horizontal component with the vertical component and then changes the smaller component. If the switch is not pressed, the inputted components are sent to the host side as they are. Thus, the extents of the shift of the mouse are inputted in (advance) and depending on whether a switch 15 is pressed, the CPU would compare different components. If not, the inputted components are sent to the host side.

Although the combination discloses a device as described, the combination does not specifically disclose a device wherein a control unit defines the direction in advance in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction in which the pointing device can be operated and has moving adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in a menu on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from the pointing device for a predetermined time period.

Kim discloses a device (see abstract) wherein the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted (adjusting means) as a function of whether the variation in the X

coordinate values is greater than or less than the variation in the Y coordinate values (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2). Furthermore, Kim discloses that the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in a menu representation on the display screen (i.e., an on-screen pointer speed controller for controlling the speed of movement of the on-screen pointer between icons, according to a predetermined control signal) (see col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 9) in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period (i.e., as it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, as long as the on-screen pointer is being moved). Thus, the on-screen pointer speed controller inherently adjusts the movement of the pointer by controlling the speed of movement of the on-screen pointer between icons.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PIERRE-LOUIS DESIR whose telephone number is (571)272-7799. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM- 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (571)272-7023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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